

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the telephone interview granted to the undersigned, in connection with the above-identified application. During this telephone interview, the rejection under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, set forth in the Office Action mailed August 25, 2004, was discussed, and the car body defined in the rejected claims was discussed, particularly with respect to Figs. 9-11, and especially with respect to Fig. 9. The discussion in connection with the figures was for purposes of explanation and illustration, and not to limit the present claims. It was pointed out to the Examiner that the first hollow member includes a connecting plate, to be illustrative and not limiting, for example, member 111 in Fig. 9, the first hollow member including, to be illustrative and not limiting, for example, members 112 and 111 in Fig. 9. It was pointed out to the Examiner that the "remaining part of the first hollow member" as in, for example, amended claim 1 is a part of the first hollow member (for example, the part represented by reference character 112) other than the connecting plate (for example, represented by reference character 111 in Fig. 9). In view of the discussions with the Examiner, it was suggested to amend, e.g., claim 1 for purposes of clarification, to clarify that "the remaining part" is a part of the first hollow member other than the connecting plate.

Applicants have amended their claims in order to further clarify the definition of various aspects of the present invention. Specifically, the independent claims rejected under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, in the Office Action mailed August 25, 2004, have been amended to recite that the remaining part of the first hollow member is a part of the first hollow member other than the connecting plate.

Applicants note with thanks the indicated allowance of claims 17-19. As for the remaining claims in the application, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11 and 13-16, Applicants respectfully traverse rejection of these claims under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, particularly insofar as applicable to the claims as presently amended. It is respectfully submitted that Applicants' original disclosure clearly describes a car body as in the present claims, having the first and second hollow members; and, moreover, having a first hollow member including (a) a connecting plate and (b) a remaining part which is a part of the first hollow member other than the connecting plate, as in the present claims. In this regard, attention is respectfully directed to, illustratively, Figs. 9-11. It is respectfully submitted that these figures show a first hollow member including a connecting plate (for example, represented by reference character 111 in Fig. 9) and a remaining part of the first hollow member other than the connecting plate (for example, represented by reference character 112 in Fig. 9). As can be seen in, e.g. Fig. 9, as well as in Figs. 10 and 11, this connecting plate has portions extending perpendicular respectively to the second hollow member (represented by reference character 120 in Fig. 9, for example) and the remaining part of the first hollow member other than the connecting plate (for example, represented by reference character 112 in Fig. 9). Particularly as presently clarified, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims define subject matter shown in Applicants' written disclosure, such that the claims clearly are supported by an original disclosure complying with the written description requirement. In addition to Figs. 9-11, note also, for example, pages 14-21 of Applicants' specification.

The contention by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action mailed August 25, 2004, that the specification does not reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the remaining part of the first hollow member "cannot be the connecting plate" is noted. It is respectfully submitted, however, that especially as presently amended, the previously rejected claims are clear and consistent with Applicants' specification, with respect to recited portions of the first hollow member (that is, the connecting plate and the remaining part which is a part of the first hollow member which is other than the connecting plate of the first hollow member). Thus, contrary to the contention by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' specification, as well as the original drawing figures, convey to one of ordinary skill in the art the connecting part of the first hollow member and the remaining part of the first hollow member, so as to satisfy applicable requirement of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted August 18, 2004, in connection with the above-identified application, is noted. Consideration of the documents cited therein, upon further examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested. If this IDS and cited documents are not in the file of the above-identified application when the Examiner takes up the above-identified application for further examination, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned for copies of the submitted IDS and cited documents. The Examiner is thanked in advance for cooperating with this request, if necessary.


In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, reconsideration and allowance of all claims remaining in the application are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 648.40349VX3), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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